GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1475
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Air Quality Monitoring
Tharoor Dr. Shashi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Air Quality Monitoring (NAQM) Programme network does not still cover rural areas in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government is aware that as per the India Energy Outlook report of the International Energy Agency, an estimated 840 million individuals reside in rural India who are dependent on wood, charcoal and other severely polluting agents for their primary energy consumption needs;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the Government has plans to extensively include rural areas under the network of the NAQM given that such polluting bodies need to be monitored considering the usage of highly polluting fuels; and
(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality at 684 manual monitoring stations located in 302 cities/towns covering 29 states and 6 union territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Four ambient air quality monitoring stations in Punjab are located in rural areas at Sangrur, Faridkot, Rasulpur Kalan and Mukandpur.

(c) & (d) Government has taken note of International Energy Agency report titled "India Energy Outlook" brought out in 2015. As per the report, solid biomass, mainly fuel wood is the primary cooking fuel for some 840 million people in India, and is likely to be gradually substituted by alternative fuels with rise in income and supporting policies of the Government such as subsidy for LPG etc.

(e) & (f) Further strengthening of the NAMP network is an ongoing process which also includes rural areas.
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